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Thailand

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Thai Guidelines on Implementation of New Plant Quarantine Regulations

2007

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Report Highlights:

The Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) recently drafted guidelines on specifications, methods and conditions of pest risk analysis (PRA) for the importation of prohibited articles.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Summary

The Royal Thai Government (RTG) is nearing release of its revised Plant Quarantine Act, which consist of three draft ministerial notifications. As indicated in FAS/Bangkok report (TH6129), these notifications seek to strengthen the quarantine practices for imported fresh fruits and vegetables from all exporting countries. Thailand notified these revisions to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in August 2006, including G/SPS/N/THA/151, G/SPS/N/THA/152, and G/SPS/N/THA/153. These three new regulations are expected to be approved and published in the Royal Gazette in May 2007.

The notification by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives entitled “Specification of plant pests and carriers from certain sources as prohibited articles under the Plant Quarantine Act B.E. 2507 (1964)” specifies that importation of prohibited articles can be done after the completion of pest risk analysis (PRA) in accordance with specifications, methods and conditions issued by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC). As a result, the DOA recently drafted guidelines on specifications, methods and conditions of PRA for the importation of prohibited articles.

In general, these guidelines stipulate that:

- 1) National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of exporting country must submit a request in writing for import permission of prohibited articles to Director General of the DOA.
- 2) NPPO of exporting country must provide all required information in English for PRA.
- 3) PRA is carried out in accordance with the guidelines of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures. The process of PRA involves the categorization of pests associated with the commodity into quarantine pests, evaluation of their introduction potential, critical assessment of economic and environmental impact of their introduction and specification of risk mitigating measures against them. The completion of PRA may involve the visit of plant quarantine officials to exporting country to evaluate pest management in production area, export certification schemes, post-harvest disinfestation/disinfection treatments.
- 4) The importation of prohibited articles may require the visit of plant quarantine officials to carry out pre-shipment inspections of prohibited articles in exporting country for certain period or through out the export season.
- 5) The exporting country is responsible for all expenses incurred during visit of plant quarantine officials.

The notification draft of these guidelines is presented in Appendix of the report.

Appendix

Draft

Notification of Department of Agriculture
Re: Specifications, methods and conditions of pest risk analysis for the importation of prohibited articles.

According to Notification of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Re: Specification of plants and carriers from certain sources as prohibited articles, of exceptions and conditions under the Plant Quarantine Act B.E. 2507 (No. 5) B.E. 2550 dated..... B.E. 2550, it specifies exceptions or conditions for permission to import prohibited articles after the completion of pest risk analysis (PRA) in accordance with specifications, methods and conditions issued by Director-General of the Department of Agriculture. Therefore, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, hereby, issues the following notification.

Item 1. National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of exporting country must submit a request in writing for import permission of prohibited articles to Director-General of the Department of Agriculture at the following address:

Director-General
Department of Agriculture
50 Phaholyothin Road, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, THAILAND
Telephone: + 66 2 940 5412
Facsimile: + 66 2 940 5528
Web site: www.doa.go.th

Item 2. NPPO of exporting country must provide all information in English for PRA as follows:

- 2.1 Complete address of NPPO with telephone, facsimile and e-mail contact information
- 2.2 Information about proposed export commodity to Thailand
 - 2.2.1 scientific name, including author (s)
 - 2.2.2 taxonomic classification
 - 2.2.3 synonyms
 - 2.2.4 common name
 - 2.2.5 variety/cultivar
 - 2.2.6 plant part to be exported (e.g. fruit, seed etc.)
 - 2.2.7 purposed end use of the commodity (e.g.consumption, processing, propagation etc.)
 - 2.2.8 export destination (other countries)
 - 2.2.9 photographs of the commodity
- 2.3 Information about production area

- 2.3.1 states, regions, provinces, districts etc.
- 2.3.2 area maps
- 2.3.3 climatological description of the production area
- 2.3.4 amount proposed for export
- 2.4 Information about production and cultivation
 - 2.4.1 specific pest management, surveillance programs and certification schemes (e.g. survey data/sampling method etc.)
 - 2.4.2 product from area officially certified pest free by NPPO
 - 2.4.3 internal legislative restriction (e.g. pest free areas, import control measures/requirements etc.)
 - 2.4.4 production, harvesting method, harvesting period
- 2.5 Information about pests associated with proposed export commodity and vectors of the pathogenic agents attacking the crop (see Table):
 - 2.5.1 scientific name, including author (s)
 - 2.5.2 taxonomic classification
 - 2.5.3 synonym
 - 2.5.4 common name
 - 2.5.5 hosts (scientific name and variety if relevant)
 - 2.5.6 plant part attacked
 - 2.5.7 symptom/damage
 - 2.5.8 distribution
 - 2.5.9 prevalence (common, occasional or rare)
 - 2.5.10 control measures
 - 2.5.11 technical references to biology of pests

Scientific Name and synonym	Organism type (insect, mite, fungi, bacteria etc.)	Order	Family	Common name	Plant part attacked	Reference

- 2.6 Information about post-harvest management
 - 2.6.1 packing methods
 - 2.6.2 inspection procedures
 - 2.6.3 post-harvest disinfestation/disinfection treatments
 - 2.6.4 storage condition and security
 - 2.6.5 transportation (national and international)
- 2.7 Current phytosanitary certification procedures (e.g. field inspection, sampling, additional declaration etc.)
- 2.8 Results of pest risk analysis which have been carried out in other countries
- 2.9 All data (if possible) provided to be less than 10 years old and validated/endorsed by NPPO of exporting country

Item 3. PRA is carried out in accordance with the guideline of International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures. The process of PRA involves the categorization of pests associated with the commodity into quarantine pests, evaluation of their introduction potential, critical assessment of economic and environmental impact of their introduction and specification of risk mitigating measures against them. The completion of PRA may involve the visit of plant quarantine officials to exporting country to evaluate pest managements in production area, export certification schemes, post-harvest disinfestation/disinfection treatments.

Item 4. The importation of prohibited articles may require the visit of plant quarantine officials to carry out pre-shipment inspections of prohibited articles in the exporting country for a certain period or through out export season.

Item 5. The exporting country is responsible for all the expenses, which are listed to this notification, incurred during the visit of plant quarantine officials mentioned in Item 3 and Item 4.

Effective on this date henceforth

Given on

B.E. 2550

Expenses of plant quarantine officials attached to the
Notification of Department of Agriculture
Re : Specifications, methods and conditions of pest risk analysis
for the importation of prohibited articles

1. Round trip air fare	Actual expense
2. Daily allowance	4,500 Baht/Day
3. Accommodation (including breakfast)	Actual expense
4. Overtime charge	
- Monday to Friday: after 5:00 p.m. or before 9.00 a.m.	800 Baht/hour
- Saturday, Sunday and other holiday (of exporting country)	1,200 Baht/hour
5. Miscellaneous	
- Domestic travel	Actual expense
(both importing and exporting countries)	
- Passport fee	Actual expense
- Visa fee	Actual expense
- Airport fee	Actual expense
- Communication	Actual expense
- Vaccination	Actual expense
- Insurance cost	Actual expense
- Medical treatment and incidental costs	Actual expense

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- The Royal Gazette, Vol. ..., Part ..., Dated B.E. 2550
 - This is an unofficial English translation. In case of any different in meaning between the Thai text and the English translation, the Thai text shall be applied.

End of Report.